

Under the provisions of Section 413.031 of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Title 5, Subtitle A of the Texas Labor Code, effective June 17, 2001 and Commission Rule 133.305, titled Medical Dispute Resolution-General, and 133.307, titled Medical Dispute Resolution of a Medical Fee Dispute, a review was conducted by the Division regarding a medical fee dispute between the requestor and the respondent named above. This dispute was received on 5/6/03.

I. DISPUTE

Whether there should be additional reimbursement for neuroplasty/transposition - 64718, internal neurolysis – 64727 and repair muscle - 25260 x 3, dated 8/27/02, denied by the carrier for lack of preauthorization and 26145 – denied as global to another procedure.

II. RATIONALE

The preauthorization letter, dated 8/20/02, states that the requestor sought and obtained preauthorization for “Tenolysis, flexor tendon, palm and ring, each tendon...”

All services that were preauthorized involve hand surgery. The carrier denied payment for the elbow surgery, which was also done at the same time, for lack of preauthorization.

The neuroplasty/transposition - 64718, internal neurolysis – 64727 and muscle repair - 25260 x 3 all involve the elbow portion of the surgery and is therefore not preauthorized. This is confirmed by the Operative Report, dated 8/27/02. Reimbursement is not recommended.

The Tenosynovectomy 26145-22 was denied by the carrier as global to another procedure. Global Service Data for Orthopedic Surgery identifies 26145 as global to the tendon sheath incision 26055. On this basis, additional reimbursement is not recommended.

III. DECISION & ORDER

Based upon the review of the disputed healthcare services within this request, the Division has determined that the requestor **is not** entitled to reimbursement for neuroplasty/transposition – 64718, internal neurolysis – 64727 and repair muscle - 25260 x 3, dated 8/27/02, denied by the carrier for lack of preauthorization and 26145 – denied as global to another procedure.

The above Findings and Decision are hereby issued this 09th day of April 2004.

Noel L. Beavers
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division

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